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**Resources and Development Committee supports  
the Cornfields Chapter alternative form of government**

**CORNFIELDS, Ariz.** – On Tuesday, the Resources and Development Committee approved Legislation No. 0277-13, authorizing the “Council and Chapter Manager” form of government as an alternative form of government for Cornfields Chapter, a Local Governance Act certified chapter.

Legislation sponsor Council Delegate Alton Joe Shepherd (Jeddito, Cornfields, Ganado, Kin Dah Lichíí, Steamboat) said the legislation would allow the community to further strive for self-sufficiency by implementing a governance model that promotes autonomy.

“Our chapter has received a lot of participation from the community, as we have incorporated the teachings of our elders,” said Delegate Shepherd. “As we are moving forward with this process, we want to bring up the younger generation with economic development. With this new structure, they will be apart of their local government.”

According to the legislation, Chapters have the option of adopting one of three governance models: the Chapter Council-President, the Commission-Manager, or the Council of Nat’aa and Atsilasdai Executive. Chapters also have the option to propose an alternative form of government separate from the models.

The Cornfields Chapter created an alternative model known as the “Cornfields Chapter Council and Chapter Manager,” consisting of a president, vice-president, secretary/treasurer, and a chapter manager to assume administration functions of the chapter.

The Cornfields Alternative Form of Government committee chair Tom Toadecheenie, said the community would like to experience the livelihood of being self-sufficient by empowering the people of Cornfields to become more active in their local government.

“The new ordinance includes goals that will reflect the progress of the AFOG. We will see if this is really making an impact in the community,” said Delegate Shepherd. “In the ordinance we have included a section that allows for necessary amendments to be made every two years. The community will be constantly involved so the ordinance always fits to the community’s needs.”

Following the presentation, RDC members had a few concerns regarding the meeting rules of order such as: quorum requirements, meeting pro tem, and who would have authority to make a motion on chapter business.

Delegate Shepherd, the Cornfields AFOG committee, and legislative counsel developed a list of amendments that further clarify the responsibilities of a president pro tem, quorum requirements for planning meetings, and to ensure that the council would be the only body capable of motioning on chapter business.

“You are blazing the trail and opening our eyes to what chapters are capable of,” said RDC chair Council Delegate Katherine Benally (Chilchinbeto, Dennehotso, Kayenta). “I can see that these amendments are minor and do not change the intent of the legislation.”

RDC member Council Delegate Roscoe Smith (Crystal, Fort Defiance, Red Lake, Sawmill) commended the chapter for their hard work and efforts to pursue autonomy in the community.

The RDC accepted the amendments with a vote of 2-1.

Although the RDC was in support of the legislation, members also suggested that the chapter develop a way to engage people with the chapter process.

“I see that the new ordinance reduces the necessary quorum to conduct chapter business. I believe that you also need to bring people back into the process, that is how you have a democracy,” said RDC member Council Delegate Leonard Tsosie (Baca/Prewitt, Casamero Lake, Counselor, Littlewater, Ojo Encino, Pueblo Pintado, Torreon, Whitehorse Lake).

The RDC approved the Legislation No. 0277-13 with a vote of 2-1.

The legislation is now referred to the Navajo Nation Board of Elections to be considered for a referendum vote by the Cornfields Chapter.

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